

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Applicants' preliminary amendment filed September 7, 2006 is acknowledged. Claims 3-10 and 12-16 are amended. Now, Claims 1-16 are pending.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Glenn Law on August 21, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1 (line 5), replace "characterized in that" with -- wherein --.

In Claims 2 (line 1), 3 (line 1), 4 (line 2), 5 (line 2), 6 (line 2), 7 (line 2), 9 (line 2), 10 (line 2), 11 (line 1) and 12 (line 2), replace "whereby" with -- wherein --.

In Claim 8 (line 2), replace “whereby said end groups are” with -- wherein said at least one functional end group comprises --.

In Claim 15, replace the whole content with --

15. A strip for a hose comprising the composite article as defined in claim 1. --

In Claim 16, replace the whole content with --

16. A cable comprising the composite article as defined in claim 1. --

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present claims are allowable for at least the following reason(s) over the closest reference: JP743 (JP 03-007743)

JP743 discloses a tire containing steel cords coated with a coupling layer comprising a rubber component and a silane coupling agent. The rubber component can be natural rubber, butadiene rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, isoprene rubber, butyl rubber or blends thereof. (col. 1 and col. 3) However, JP743

does not teach or fairly suggest a **hyperbranched polymer** as the foregoing rubber component.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuo-Liang Peng whose telephone number is (571) 272-1091. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Seidleck, can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR

only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

klp
August 21, 2009

/Kuo-Liang Peng/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796